

Remarks

Claims 1-13, 15-41, 51-74, and 78-103 were pending and under examination. Claims 1-9, 10-12, 13, 15-26, 66, 67, 68, 69-72, and 78-103 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by this Amendment. No claims are amended. No new claims are added. No new matter is introduced.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner indicated that claims 27-41 and 51-65, 73, and 74 are allowed. Applicant also acknowledges that the previous rejection of claims 1-6, 14-17, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 10-12, 13, 15-26, 66, 67, 68, 69-72, and 78-103 are canceled by this Amendment solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, and their cancellation does not signal in any way acquiescence by the Applicant to the grounds for rejection of those claims by the Examiner. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue any or all of the canceled claims in one or more divisional or continuation applications.


Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant notes that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on February 18, 2003, which was stamped as received by the Patent Office on February 24, 2003, has not been checked off by the Examiner. Copies of the IDS as submitted on February 18, 2003, and the reference cited therein are provided herewith. Applicant requests the Examiner to indicate she has considered the art cited therein.

Summary

It is believed that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance. A favorable and early response is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, she is requested to call Applicant's representative at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,
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